

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT
Barcia Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-1777 • Fax: 517-373-5871
E-mail: senjbarcia@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD31



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CONTACT: Sen. Jim Barcia (D-Bay City)
(517) 373-1777

**BARCIA APPLAUDS TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS TO
COMMUNITIES OF PIGEON AND STANDISH**

(LANSING)—State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) announced today the award of a \$5,000 National Rural Health Association (NRHA) project grant to the communities of Pigeon, in Huron County; and Standish, in Arenac County. Both communities are located within Senator Barcia's 31st Senate District.

Michigan was one of four states to receive grants as part of NRHA's efforts to improve and enhance rural traffic safety. In particular, grass-roots initiatives will be implemented to increase usage of safety belts and child safety seats.

"This is a unique opportunity for both Pigeon and Standish to develop awareness and prevention programs in traffic safety," said Barcia. "With active community involvement and intervention, we can work to save lives and decrease the number of serious injuries as the result of accidents on our roadways."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports a disproportionately higher number of crash fatalities amongst younger drivers in rural areas of the country. It is also reported that safety belt use in rural areas is lower than that of urban areas.

“These statistics speak volumes about the importance of community education and working to increase safety belt use in our communities,” Barcia said. “The grants will provide these communities with the opportunity to develop programs to address important traffic safety issues.”

State Senator Jim Barcia represents the 31st Senate District, which includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he serves as Vice-Chair of the subcommittees on Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, and Transportation.

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